

REMARKS

Applicant gratefully acknowledges the allowance of claims 3, 5, and 8, and the indication of allowable subject matter in claims 9 and 10. Applicant believes, however, that it is premature to amend claims 9 and 10 to be independent claims because applicant maintains that claim 1 is patentable over the cited art, as explained below.

Applicant respectfully traverses the § 102(e) rejection of claims 1, 2, 4, 6, and 7 over McFarlane. The present invention, as recited in claim 1, includes, among other things, first and second parallel link mechanisms. These parallel link mechanisms each comprise four connection axial portions and four link elements connecting the four connection axial portions. Claim 1 has been amended to reflect this structure of the parallel link mechanism. None of the pedals and links in McFarlane combine to define a parallel link mechanism. In contrast, in McFarlane, the pedal apparatus is provided with three link elements, e.g., pedal lever 32, guide link 38, and support end 50, for supporting pedal lever 32, and two connection axes, e.g., adjustment axis 39, and operational axis 40. These components in McFarlane do not define a parallel link mechanism as set forth, e.g., in claim 1. The pedal apparatus of the invention, having the structure set forth, e.g., in claim 1, can set an angle in the depressing direction of each pedal by setting each portion to the optional dimension. The pedal apparatus of McFarlane, lacking the claimed structure, lacks this capability.

Applicant submits that entry of this amendment after final action is proper because it places all of the claims in condition for allowance or in better form for appeal. Applicant requests entry of this amendment and reconsideration of the claims.

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Respectfully submitted,

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Dated: August 1, 2003

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